

What is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing an article comprising the steps of:
juxtaposing a fabric layer having a fabric peripheral edge with a layer of thermoplastic material;

5 cutting the thermoplastic material so its outer edge is spaced outwardly from the fabric peripheral edge; and
simultaneously with cutting sealing said fabric layer to the layer of thermoplastic material to form a sealed periphery.

10 2. The method defined in claim 1 wherein sealing of the fabric layer to the layer of thermoplastic material includes a step selected from the group consisting of RF, sonic sealing, heat sealing, vibration sealing and the like.

3. The method defined in claim 1 wherein juxtaposing the fabric layer with layer of thermoplastic material further includes overlaying said fabric layer with another layer of thermoplastic material, thereby sealing the fabric layer to two opposite layers of thermoplastic material.

4. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the layer of thermoplastic material initially covers the entire fabric layer.

5. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the layer of thermoplastic material is a strip covering only a peripheral region of the fabric layer which includes the fabric peripheral edge.

6. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the sealed periphery further comprising a covering layer made of transparent thermoplastic material, said layer of thermoplastic material being made from a material selected from the group consisting of retro-reflective and glowing material, and a combination thereof.

7. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of forming a decorative area spaced from the sealed periphery simultaneously with sealing the fabric layer to the layer of thermoplastic material.

8. The method defined in claim 7 wherein the decorative area includes at least one layer of thermoplastic material which is selected from the group consisting of retroreflective material, glowing material, and the like and a covering layer selected from the group consisting of transparent and translucent thermoplastic material and bonded to the fabric layer simultaneously with the trimming thereof.

9. A process of manufacturing an article of clothing comprising the steps of:
providing a die with at least one sealing area having at least one flat sealing ledge and at least one cutting edge which extends over the flat sealing ledge;

interposing a fabric layer with a thermoplastic layer such that a peripheral edge of the fabric layer extends within the thermoplastic layer;

applying the die to the thermoplastic layer to cut excess thereof with the one cutting edge, thereby forming an outer edge of the thermoplastic layer extending laterally outwardly from the peripheral edge of the fabric layer;

simultaneously with cutting sealing overlapped areas of the fabric and thermoplastic layers to each other to form a trimmed article of clothing.

10. The process defined in claim 9 further comprising forming pair of adjustable straps.

11. The process defined in claim 9 further comprising the step of providing the die with another sealing area having a cutting edge and a flat sealing ledge to form a decorative area spaced inwardly from the trim and including at least one covering layer of a transparent material, and a backup layer which is selected from the group consisting of retroreflective and glow material.

12. The process defined in claim 11 wherein forming the decorative area is performed simultaneously with sealing the thermoplastic and backup layers to each other.

13. An article comprising:
a first panel including:

a fabric layer having a peripheral edge and selected from the group consisting of a nylon or polyester mesh and a cotton material, and

at least one thermoplastic layer interposed with and sealed to one side of the fabric layer, the thermoplastic layer having outer and inner peripheral edges flanking the peripheral edge of the fabric layer to form a peripheral area;

and

a second panel identical to the first panel and sealed thereto along selective areas of the peripheral area to form the article of clothing selected from the group consisting of a vest, tote bag, T-shirt, pillow, short, book and the like.

14. The article defined in claim 13, further comprising at least one decorative area formed on the fabric layer and spaced inwardly from the peripheral area, said decorative layer having a backup thermoplastic layer of retroreflective or

5 glowing material and a covering layer selected from a transparent thermoplastic material.

15. The article defined in claim 13 further comprising a pair of adjustable straps received in a plurality of holes which are formed in the peripheral area of the first and second panels.

5 16. The article defined in claim 13 further comprising another thermoplastic layer juxtaposed with and bonded to an opposite side of the fabric layer to completely enclose the peripheral edge of the fabric layer, at least one of the thermoplastic layers including a covering layer, which is made from a transparent material, and at least one back up layer, which is selected from the group consisting of retroreflective and glowing material.

5 17. An apparatus for manufacturing an article, comprising a die having a plurality of sealing areas, each of the sealing areas having a series of spaced apart flat sealing ledges, an outer cutting edge and a series of inner spaced apart cutting edges extending over the sealing ledges, the outer cutting edge being higher than at least one of the series of inner edges to completely cut excess of material, at least one of the inner cutting edges being relatively small to form a seam on the article to define a part thereof which is detachable upon applying an external force.